been referred to M/o Law & Justice for advice. Based on the advice received from Ministry of Law & Justice, further decision shall be taken. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate a time frame.

Promotion of spiritual tourism

1705. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to develop, promote and popularise the spiritual tourism effectively in certain States of the country;

(b) whether such States have been listed and whether the State of Uttaranchal is one of them; and

(c) if so, the names of such States alongwith details of the selected places and the locations thereof for the spiritual tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Development and promotion of tourist destinations is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism assists the State Governments under its Scheme of "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits". The scope of this scheme include development of tourist destinations which can contribute towards spiritual development.

(b) The State of Uttaranchal has become popular as tourist destination in this regard due to its impressive product.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism takes up development and promotion of tourist/spiritual destinations/circuits based on the receipt of proposals from the State Governments and this is a continuous process.

Connectivity of major tourist centres

1706. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are emphasising improved connectivity to major tourist centres in the country and particularly to South India;

(b) whether any action plan has been chalked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether other Ministries have also been consulted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the views expressed by each Ministry; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter with the State Governments and have emphasized on the need for improving connectivity to major tourist centres. They have also been advised to send proposals for such connectivites to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for funding under their scheme of Central Road Fund.

(d) to (f) The Ministry of Tourism has requested the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for improving connectivity to major tourist centres in the country and have also requested them to consider the stretches of Road connectivity from these spots to the National Highways as a part of National Highways itself. The Planning Commission has allocated funds for improving connectivity from the National Highway/State Highway to the various sites in the cities of Agra and Varanasi. They have also agreed to help in improving connectivity to other important destinations. The Ministry of Culture has also taken up the matter with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for developing connectivity to the monuments under their control.

Development of tourism industry in Orissa under "Incredible India"

1707. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has good potential for tourism, but it lacks infrastructure;

(b) whether the State has nine major beaches, a potential for tourist hubs, but on account of lack of infrastructure, it drives away the tourists; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre under "Incredible India" campaign to help the State to develop its tourism industry?